

232751

Gary & Marilyn Stafford
903 Cranberry Circle, Fort Mill, SC 29715

October 1, 2011

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Clerk's Office
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

RECEIVED
OCT 11 2011
CLERK'S OFFICE

**RE: Duke Energy Carolina's LLC
August 5th Application to the Commission:
Requesting to adjust and increase its retail electric rates, charges, and tariffs**

Gentlemen;

First, Duke Energy's four locations for public hearings on the above mater are not representative of the State of South Carolina. Key cities of this State have been omitted.

Second, many residents who have been able to take advantage of "South Carolinas Homestead Act" live here, many are on fixed incomes, and cannot afford increased utility rates.

Third, those living on incomes below \$22,000/yr. are now considered at poverty level and they too could not afford an increase of electric rates. Please note that those who are living on Social Security have received no increases in payments for the past two years (2010 & 2011). Hope for cost of living increases, which exclude food and energy, seem dismal at best.

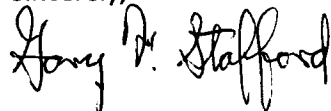
Fourth, with unemployment officially listed at 11% in the State, this is no time for any rate increase. Please note that cities like Rock Hill exhibited 24% unemployment within the last year. It was a "headline story."

Fifth, "Green Energy" may be the thing of the future but it is not affordable in today's economy when it puts the financial burden ultimately on the back of today's people who are financially struggling to keep their jobs, their homes and food on the table. Please note that the country of Spain, who has promoted "Green Energy," has one of the highest unemployment rates in all of Europe.

Finally, we know that Duke Energy is the sixth largest electrical supplier and company in the nation. It is not struggling for survival like some "G.M." or "Chrysler" company. This is evidenced by the hundreds of millions paid out to their last retiring president, which has happened in the last three to four years.

No to their request, by one citizen who refuses to remain silent and who cannot be to one of their meetings in Spartanburg, Lancaster, Greenville or Anderson. Enough is enough. One must stand up for what is fair, what is right and what one believes. I will; and I will continue to stand on behalf of all residents of this great State of South Carolina.

Sincerely,



Gary F. Stafford